

Message Text

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45

ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 COME-00 SR-02 ORM-03 CIAE-00

DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04

RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20 USIA-15 AID-20 IGA-02 IO-14

DRC-01 /157 W

----- 041379

R 190915Z DEC 73

FM AMEMBASSY KABUL

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6208

INFO AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

CINCPAC

C O N F I D E N T I A L KABUL 8594

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, AF, PK

SUBJ: AFGHAN-PAKISTAN RELATIONS: NOMAD MIGRATION ISSUE

REF: STATE 244547

1. IT HAS PROVEN MOST DIFFICULT TO OBTAIN ANY TYPE OF RELIABLE ESTIMATES OF ANNUAL CROSS BORDER MIGRATION. NO TRUE NOMAD CENSUS HAS YET BEEN ATTEMPTED (ALTHOUGH ONE IS CURRENTLY BEING PREPARED) AND SCATTERED REPORTS OF VARIOUS FOREIGN OBSERVERS OFTEN CONFLICT SUBSTANTIALLY NOMADS THEMSELVES HAVE VERY LITTLE CONCEPTION OF LARGE NUMBERS PER SE AND ARE THUS POOR SOURCES OF INFORMATION.

2. WE HAVE LEARNED HOWEVER THAT IN PAKTIA PROVINCE ALONE SOME 50,000 PEOPLE ARE CONSIDERED TO BE IN THE BORDER CROSSING CATEGORY (1972 GERMAN STUDY BY PAKTIA PLANNING TEAM - A LARGE GERMAN AID PROJECT IN PROVINCE). WHILE NOT ALL 50,000 WOULD BE ATTEMPTING TO
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CROSS FRONTIER AT ANY ONE TIME, THIS IS STILL SUBSTANTIAL CONCENTRATION FOR JUST ONE AREA. IN ADDITION, REPORTS OF UNSPECIFIED

NUMBERS OF NOMADS BACKED UP IN KANDAHAR, KUNAR AND NANGARHAR MUST SWELL THE TOTAL TO CONSIDERABLY MORE THAN THE 50,000-60,000 FIGURE MENTIONED IN REFTEL.

3. WE ALSO KNOW THAT THE "JATS", A NOMADIC GROUPS OF GYPSIES, ARE BEING ALLOWED, AS OF A WEEK OR SO AGO, TO CROSS THE BORDER OPENLY AT TORKHAM WITHOUT ANY TYPE OF TRAVEL DOCUMENTS. OTHER SOURCES REPORT THAT NOMADS HAVE NOT REPEAT NOT BEEN ISSUED ANY PASSPORTS, IDENTIFICATION CARDS (TASKARA) OR OTHER TRAVEL DOCUMENTS AT ALL BY THE AFGHAN AUTHORITIES AND WOULD STRONGLY RESIST BEING MADE TO CARRY ANY TYPE OF DOCUMENTATION. TO FURTHER CONFUSE SITUATION, THERE ARE REPORTS OF SPORADIC CLASHES BETWEEN BACKED UP NOMAD GROUPS AND AFGHAN BORDER OFFICIALS TRYING TO KEEP THEM BACK FROM FRONTIER IN KUNAR REGION.

4. GIVEN SCARCITY OF RELIABLE FACTS, IT IS DIFFICULT TO MAKE ANY PREDICTIONS AS TO OUTCOME OF PRESENT IMPASSE. CERTAINLY THERE ARE SUBSTANTIAL NUMBERS OF NOMADS STACKED UP WAITING TO CROSS FRONTIER. IT WOULD BE PHYSICALLY (AS WELL AS POLITICALLY) IMPOSSIBLE FOR AFGHAN GOVERNMENT TO ISSUE THEM ALL TRAVEL DOCUMENTS. IF BORDER AREA IS SEALED BY THE PAKISTANIS (THAT IS, CLOSED

TO LARGE MOVEMENTS OF PEOPLE) MANY NOMADS MAY ABANDON EFFORT. HOWEVER, SOME ARE SURE TO TRY AND FORCE A CROSSING AND VIOLENCE COULD EASILY ERUPT.

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